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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,904	12/03/2001	Robert Charles Rosselot	8798L PRGA 0104 PUS	8508

27752 7590 12/02/2004

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
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EXAMINER

LUU, SY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/004,904

Applicant(s)

ROSSELOT, ROBERT CHARLES

Examiner

Sy D Luu

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/7/04 and prior.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2 and 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13, 15-34, and 36-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman et al. ("Humpleman", US 6,288,716 B1) in view of McNerney et al. ("McNerney", US 5,999,208).

As per claim 1, Humpleman teaches a method for controlling a plurality of devices connected to a first computer (fig. 1; col. 2, lines 28 et seq.; col. 6, lines 10-23; *first home device DTV 102*), the method comprising: receiving status information from the devices connected to the first computer, displaying a device menu of available devices, displaying a control menu to control at least one of the available devices, and transmitting commands to a selected one of the available devices to control the selected device in response to user input (figs. 3 and 10; col. 6, lines 47-52; col. 7, lines 4-18; col. 7, lines 43-47). Humpleman does not disclose the devices to be devices employed in a conference room, but rather devices being used in a home environment. However, methods for controlling a plurality of devices in a conference is well known in the art. For instance, McNerney teaches a method of displaying available conference room devices for users to interact with and control via a graphical user interface (abstract; col. 6,

lines 29-29; col. 5, lines 9-13). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine Humpleman's method with McNerney in order to apply Humpleman's efficient and well organized functionalities of managing and controlling the plurality of devices used in different rooms at home to a conference room environment.

As per claim 2, McNerney teaches the devices to include at least one of an ambient lighting control, ambient temperature control, a speaker phone, audio equipment, video equipment, window coverings, and a physical access control (Humpleman, Fig. 7; McNerney, col. 2, lines 25-28).

As per claims 3-4, Humpleman teaches the device menu and the control menu are displayed simultaneously, or on a common screen (abstract; fig. 10).

As per claims 5-7, the method of Humpleman-McNerney does not explicitly disclose a type menu for selection of a type of conference, as well as displaying available devices accordingly. However, conferencing having different types and displaying of only available options are well known in the art that. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include with the method of Humpleman-McNerney, menu selections for users to choose different types of conferencing depending on the required/desired situation such as audio only or both audio/video. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to display only those devices that are available so that users are only being presented with those devices that are operable under the chosen type conferencing.

As per claims 8-9, Humpleman teaches the steps of sending formatted menus to a second computer via a computer network wherein the second computer is remotely located from the first computer to allow a remote user to control the conference room devices, wherein the displaying

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steps comprise sending web browser compatible menus to a second computer accessible via the internet (col. 21, lines 1-6).

As per claim 10, Humpleman teaches displaying status information for at least one of the conference room devices connected to the first computer (col. 5, lines 36-39).

As per claim 11, Humpleman teaches the step of automatically determining whether a compatible device has been added to or removed from the conference computer, and automatically updating a status of the compatible device on at least one of the menus (col. 11, lines 48-49).

As per claims 15-16, the method of Humpleman-McNerney does not disclose the steps of sending a video image of the conference room to technical support personnel, and sending a videoconferencing output to technical support personnel in addition to the video image of the conference room to aid in troubleshooting any problems with the conference room devices. However, the steps of sending pertinent information such as image or non-image snapshot of a situation requiring attention to technical support personnel is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include these features with the method of Humpleman-McNerney in order to provide the user/technical support personnel with pertinent information for taking appropriate corrective actions.

As per claim 17, Humpleman teaches the step of displaying a control menu comprises displaying a plurality of buttons including at least buttons corresponding to play, pause, stop, forward, and reverse (fig. 11).

As per claim 18, McNerney teaches the step of displaying a control menu comprises displaying a plurality of buttons including at least buttons corresponding to pan, tilt, and zoom (col. 2, lines 33-38).

As per claims 19-21, Humpleman teaches the steps of transmitting to comprise: wirelessly transmitting commands from the first computer to the conference room devices, transmitting commands from the first computer to the conference room devices using a two-way protocol, wherein the two-way protocol comprises at least one of RS-232 and telnet (col. 5, lines 50-60).

As per claim 22, Humpleman teaches the steps of displaying comprise displaying menus for selection by a user via pointing or touching (col. 5, lines 23-27; col. 8, lines 9-18).

Claims 23-27 are similar in scope to claims 15-16, and are rejected under similar rationale.

As per claims 28-29, the method of Humpleman-McNerney teaches the steps of locally previewing output from a selected one of the devices, sending the output to a remote location in response to a send command (figs. 8-11; col. 21, lines 1-6), and displaying a summary screen having status information for all conference room devices associated with a selected conference room (figs. 7-11).

Claims 30-34 and 36-46 are similar in scope to claims 1-2, 8-9, 11, 18-41, 5-7, and 28-29 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 47 is similar in scope to claims 1, 8, 18 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale. McNerney further teaches a telephone in communication with the computer for dialing telephone numbers and providing audio communication between the conference room and a

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remote location (col. 1, lines 35-44; col. 6, lines 15-18). While the method of Humpleman-McNerney does not expressly disclose the use of a touch panel for receiving commands, however, touch panels are notoriously well known in the art. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine the use of touch panels with the method of Humpleman-McNerney in order to provide users with another facilitating means for inputting commands.

3. Claims 12-13 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman et al. ("Humpleman", US 6,288,716 B1) and McNerney et al. ("McNerney", US 5,999,208) in view of Venkatraman et al. ("Venkatraman", US 6,139,177).

As per claims 12-13, the method of Humpleman-McNerney does not disclose the steps of automatically sending a message to technical support in response to a corresponding device status, wherein the step of sending comprises sending an email message. Venkatraman teaches a method for device access and control, wherein email messages are employed to notify specific personnel when predetermined events in a device occur (col. 8, lines 25 et seq.). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine Venkatraman's teaching with the method of Humpleman-McNerney in order to provide the user/technical support with alerts for taking appropriate actions.

Claim 35 is similar in scope to claim 12, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

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4. Claim 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humpleman et al. ("Humpleman", US 6,288,716 B1) and McNerney et al. ("McNerney", US 5,999,208) in view of Graziano et al. ("Graziano", US 20020111698 A1).

As per claim 14, the method of Humpleman-McNerney does not disclose the steps of transmitting a numeric or alphanumeric message to a wireless device indicating a need for technical support. Graziano teaches a method for monitoring and controlling a plurality of devices, wherein a numeric or alphanumeric message is transmitted to a wireless device (paragraph 85). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine Graziano's teaching with the method of Humpleman-McNerney in order to provide the user/technical support with alerts for taking appropriate actions.

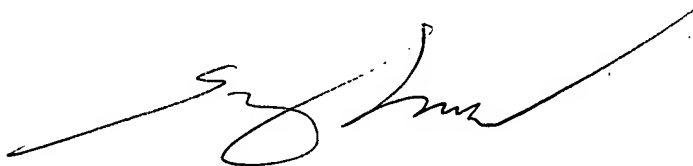
Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sy Luu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm (EST). The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



**SY D. LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER**